

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended): A picture distribution system for distributing picture data from a distribution device to a plurality of receiving devices, comprising:

a network where a plurality of logical channels are established in a time division multiplex method;

a distribution device distributing picture data via a logical channel designated by a distribution instruction; [[and]]

a plurality of receiving devices receiving picture data from respective logical channels designated by receiving instructions; and

an allocation unit for allocating respective bandwidth to the plurality of logical channels used to transmit picture data according to a number of picture data to be transmitted.

2.(original): The picture distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said network is a ring-shaped transmission line.

3.(original): The picture distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a determination unit determining a number of logical channels to be established in said network.

4.(original): The picture distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising an allocation unit allocating respective bands used to transmit picture data to the plurality of logical channels.

5.(cancelled):

6.(currently amended): The picture distribution system according to claim 1 [[5]],
wherein

priority is given in advance to the plurality of logical channels, and
said allocation unit allocates respective bands to the plurality of logical channels
based on the priority given to each logical channel.

7.(currently amended): The picture distribution system according to claim 1 [[5]],
wherein

priority is given in advance to the plurality of receiving devices; and
said allocation means allocates respective bands to said plurality of logical
channels based on the priority given to each receiving device.

8.(currently amended): The picture distribution system according to claim 1 [[5]],
wherein

said distribution device generates a receiving instruction according to a received
distribution instruction and transmits the receiving instruction to a corresponding receiving
device via said network.

9.(currently amended): A distribution device which is used in a picture distribution
system for distributing picture data from a distribution device to a plurality of receiving

devices via a network where a plurality of logical channels are established by a time division multiplex method, comprising:

a distribution unit distributing picture data to a plurality of receiving devices with a function to receive picture data from a logical channel designated by a receiving instruction via a logical channel designated by a distribution instruction; and

an allocation unit for allocating respective bandwidth to the plurality of logical channels used to transmit picture data according to a number of picture data to be transmitted.

10.(currently amended): A receiving device which is used as one of a plurality of receiving devices in a picture distribution system for distributing picture data from a distribution device to a plurality of receiving devices via a network where a plurality of logical channels are established by a time division multiplex method and respective bandwidth is allocated to the plurality of logical channels used to transmit picture data according to a number of picture data to be transmitted, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving a set of picture data from a logical channel designated by a receiving instruction, the set of picture data being transmitted from a distribution device with a function to distribute picture data via a logical channel designated by a distribution instruction.

11.(currently amended): A picture distribution system for distributing picture data from a distribution device to a plurality of receiving devices, comprising:

a network where a fixed-length frame composed of a plurality of time slots are transmitted;

one or more distribution devices storing first picture data in a first time slot of the fixed-length frame, storing second picture data in a second time slot of the fixed-length frame, and transmitting the fixed-length frame to the network; [[and]]

a plurality of receiving devices receiving the respective picture data from the first or second time slots of the fixed-length frame according to a receiving instruction; and

an allocation unit for allocating respective bandwidth to a plurality of logical channels used to transmit picture data according to a number of picture data to be transmitted.

12.(original): The picture distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

if third picture data are requested to be distributed while the first and second picture data are being distributed, said one or more distribution devices store the first picture data in the first time slot of the fixed-length frame, store the second and third picture data in the second time slot of the fixed-length frame, and transmit the fixed length frame to said network.

13.(currently amended): A picture distribution method for distributing picture data from a distribution device to a plurality of receiving devices, comprising:

establishing a plurality of logical channels by a time division multiplex method;

allocating respective bandwidth to the plurality of logical channels used to transmit picture data according to a number of picture data to be transmitted;

distributing picture data via a logical channel designated by a distribution instruction; and

a plurality of receiving devices receiving respective picture data from logical channels designated by corresponding receiving instructions.

14.(currently amended): The picture distribution method according to claim 13,
further comprising:

 determining a number of logical channels to be established according to [[a]] the
number of picture data to be transmitted;

~~allocating respective bands used to transmit picture data to a plurality of logical~~
~~channels to be established; and~~

 generating the distribution instruction based on the determined number of logical
channels and allocated bandwidth [[bands]].